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 Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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 TO AMEMBASSEY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY  
 INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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 EO 12065: NA  
 TAGS: SREF PK UNHCR  
 SUBJ: USG CONTRIBUTION TO AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 5034 B) GENEVA 7237

1. WE APPRECIATE ISLAMABAD'S DETAILED REPORT OF UNHCR DIRECTOR VOLFGING'S STATEMENT ON US CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES (REF A), AND WE CERTAINLY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO GENERATE MAXIMUM RESPONSE TO UNHCR'S EXPANDED APPEAL. VOLFGING AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF UNHCR AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD BOTH WHAT THE USG HAS DONE AND WHAT IT HAS PROMISED TO DO.

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2. THE USG HAS ALREADY PLEDGED US DOLS 6.0 MILLION

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IN CASH AND KIND. WE HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED US DOLLARS 16.079 MILLION REPRESENTING 48,972 METRIC TONS (MT) OF BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES (42,048 MT WHEAT; 2,620 MT VEGOIL; 1,296 MT DRIED SKIM MILK). THESE TONNAGES ARE NOT, AS VOLPING ASSERTS, DRAW DOWNS ON EXISTING WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) STOCKS. THEY ARE ACTUALLY ADDITIONAL TONNAGES CONTRIBUTED BY THE US AND COURSED THROUGH WFP. FINALLY, ON JUNE 17 AUTHORIZED THE RELEASE OF PAKISTANI RUPEES 47,520,000 EQUAL TO US DOLS \$4.8 MILLION TO MEET RELIEF REQUIREMENTS OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE POPULATION IN PAKISTAN. (NOTE: THIS IS \$200 THOUSAND LESS THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED SINCE AID HAS ALREADY DRAWN \$200 THOUSAND FOR DISASTER CONTINGENCIES IN PAKISTAN, AND THERE IS A \$5 MILLION CEILING ON AVAILABILITIES IN ANY SINGLE YEAR.) WE ARE NOW COMPLETING THE TECHNICAL STEPS TO RELEASE THESE RUPEES TO THE SPENDING AGENCIES IN PAKISTAN. WE ANTICIPATE THAT US DOLS \$2.5 MILLION EQUIVALENT OF RUPEES WILL BE RELEASED DIRECTLY TO UNHCR WITH THE REMAINING \$2.3 MILLION TO BE APPORTIONED AMONG VOLAGS AND ICERS/LICROSS. IN SUMMARY, THEN, THE USG HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED US DOLS 21.079 MILLION AND WILL SOON ADD US DOLS 4.8 MILLION FOR A TOTAL COMMITMENT OF US DOLS 25.879 MILLION. CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY APPROVED EXCEED ONE-THIRD OF THE ORIGINAL \$5 MILLION APPEAL AND, WITH ADDITION OF RUPEES, CONTRIBUTIONS WILL ACTUALLY APPROACH ONE HALF OF THAT APPEAL.

MOREOVER, WE PLAN TO COMMIT ANOTHER US DOLS 17.131 MILLION REPRESENTING 47,091 MT IN BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES, AGAIN COURSED THROUGH WFP, BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF FY-81, SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. THIS ADDITIONAL

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AMOUNT WOULD INCREASE TOTAL US COMMITMENT TO US DOLS 44.131 MILLION FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.

2. IF UNHCR REGARDS "PLEDGES IN WRITING" AS AN ESSENTIAL OR EVEN USEFUL MEANS OF GENERATING INCREASED INTEREST IN EXPANDED APPEAL, WE ARE PREPARED TO TRY TO MEET THAT NEED. SUGGEST THAT US MISSION GENEVA DRAW UP A STATEMENT INCORPORATING FOREGOING DECLARATION OF US COMMITMENTS WHICH COULD THEN BE CIRCULATED TO UNHCR AND OTHER PROSPECTIVE DONORS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE. PLEASE ADVISE IF FURTHER DETAILS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE OF RECAP.

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TULATING US CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. IN LIGHT VOLFGING'S REMARKS, IT MAY BE WELL IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS WITH GOP, OTHER DONOR STATES, AND, PARTICULARLY, UNHCR TO CLARIFY OUR THINKING ABOUT HOW USG CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THIS APPEAL SHOULD BE CALCULATED. WE ARE SEEKING, IN A VERY TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION, TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO ONE-THIRD THE COST OF THIS ENTIRE PROGRAM. THE USG HAS NEVER MADE A COMMITMENT, HOWEVER, TO UNDERWRITE ONE-THIRD OF THE COST OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AGENCY'S PART OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM, NOR COULD WE DO SO. OUR APPROACH PERMITS FLEXIBILITY IN DECIDING HOW MOST EFFECTIVELY WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO REFUGEE EFFORT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNHCR ITSELF ASSUMES THAT CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM WOULD BE MET BY WFP'S PROVISIONS OF CERTAIN BASIC FOOD ITEMS, THE VALUE OF WHICH WOULD BE TABULATED AGAINST THE TOTAL OF US DOLS 66 MILLION IN THE ORIGINAL APPEAL. IT SEEMS REASONABLE THAT WHEN THE USG PROVIDES OVER 45,000 MT OF BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES, EARMARKED FOR AFGHAN RELIEF THROUGH COURSED ADMINISTRATIVELY THROUGH WFP, THAT THE UNHCR COUNT THAT CONTRIBUTION AND COMMUNICATE INFORMATION ABOUT IT TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE HOPE TO PULL MOST EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER IN MEETING THE CURRENT URGENT DEMANDS OF THIS PROGRAM. MUSKIE

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